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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and the indication that claims 15, 17, 20-22 are in a condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 18 and 20 have been amended. Claim 20 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Support for the amendment to claim 18 can be found throughout the specification. Specifically, the amendment to claim 18 can be found in the specification at page 13, first full paragraph and Examples 2, 20, 23, and 40-42. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly clearly anticipated by Takehara.

As the reference is understood, Takehara teaches 4-(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-benzoic acid alkyl ester. Thus, the Takehara compounds include an unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl residue (e.g., the Z residue of Formula VIII).

The claims, as amended, do not encompass the compound recited by Takehara. More particularly, claim 18 provides compounds in which the Z position is a alkoxy carbonyl having a cycloalkyl or phenoxy substituent.

Takehara neither teaches nor suggests compounds provided by claim 18. Claim 19 depends from claim 18. Therefore the claims, as currently amended, are patentable over the disclosure of the Takehara patent.

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It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,



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